Word of the Lord 2023
Sunday January 01, 2023
Your Blessing is Coming!
Pray through till breakthrough!

Greetings and wishing you a happy new year 2023!
As we begin each new year we like to bring you a word from God that will help us through the year. This is of course not the only thing God wants us to know, but it is an important message to follow for this year.

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Your blessing is coming! Pray through till breakthrough!

We base this on 1 Kings 18:1-2,41-46, James 5:16-18

1 Kings 18:1-2,41-46
1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."
2 So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.
41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."
42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,
43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."
44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "
45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.
46 Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

James 5:16-18
16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

1, THE PRESENT CONDITION

We learn from 1 Kings 18:1-2 that there had been no rain in the land for about 3 years. There was severe famine. The land was dry and dead.
There may be areas in our lives like this where things may be dry, barren, unfruitful.
But God has a way to turn such situations around.
And we believe that this year we will see a turnaround in such areas.

2, THE PROMISE OF GOD

1 Kings 18:1,41
1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."
41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

In this situation, where it has not rained for three years, the Word of God comes announcing that there will be rain.

Similarly, for us, in our dead and dry situation, we receive God's Word – the written promises of Scripture. Sometimes it can be a prophetic word that God speaks to us by His Holy Spirit.

Sometimes it is hard to believe there will be rain, after three years of drought and famine.
We may wonder how it could possibly rain?
Why should it rain now when it has not rained for such a long time?

God has spoken His promises. He invites us to believe His Word.

You have been blessed! God has already spoken and declared you blessed. Now your blessing is ready to come into the natural realm. Your blessing is coming!

3, THE PRAYER OF FAITH

After the promise was announced, we see Elijah engaging in prayer.

1 Kings 18:42
So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

God had spoken, but Elijah still had to pray.

God has released His Word and spoken His promises. But we still need to pray.
Take the promises of God, mix faith with it and pray the promises of God for your life.
Your blessing is coming! But you need to pray!

4, THE PERSISTENCE REQUIRED

1 Kings 18:43
and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

We do not know how many hours Elijah engaged in prayer.
After each session of prayer he sent his servant to go see if there was any sign of rain.
Seven times – there was nothing!
Elijah did not get discouraged.
He did not think that the promise of God, the word of God, was not true.
He just continued in prayer. He persisted in prayer.

In James 5:16-18, it refers to Elijah and the way he prayed as "effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man" and "he prayed earnestly".

We must do the same.

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TWO STORIES OF PERSISTENCE

To impress upon us the importance of persistence in prayer, Jesus used two illustrations:
Luke 11:1-13
Luke 18:1-8

Persistence in prayer does not change God. It changes us.
It brings us to a place of absolute faith in God.
It brings us to a place of absolute dependence on God.

5, THE PRECURSOR OF THE BLESSING

1 Kings 18:44
Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "

Things began to change as Elijah persisted in prayer.
He received news that a small cloud, the size of a man's hand could be seen in the distance, in the sky. This was the precursor of the blessing – an indicator that God's Word was beginning to be fulfilled!

As we pray earnestly and persist in prayer, we will also the precursor to the blessings God has promised. We will see the beginnings of the promise, the blessings! Get encouraged, there is the sound of abundance of rain.

Your blessing is coming! Pray through till breakthrough!

6, THE PREPARATION TO RECEIVE

1 Kings 18:44
Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "

Your blessing is coming. But you must prepare to receive!
What will life look like when you receive your blessing?
How will life change when what God has promised is fulfilled?
Prepare to receive. Prepare for change that the blessings will bring.

Your blessing is coming! Pray through till breakthrough!
Prepare to receive

7, THE PROMISE FULFILLED

1 Kings 18:45-46
45 Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

46 Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

The word God has spoken was fulfilled. There was heavy rain!

1, The present condition
2, The promise of God
3, The prayer of faith
4, The persistence required and two stories of persistence
5, The precursor of the blessing
6, The preparation to receive
7, The promise fulfilled

God's promises to you will be fulfilled!
You will receive your blessing!
Your blessing is coming! Pray through till breakthrough!

SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME
Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Word of the Lord 2023
Sunday January 01, 2023
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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *1 Kings 18:1-2,41-46, James 5:16-18*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Please review the message in brief and discuss:
What are your key takeaways from the Word of the Lord 2023?
How will you apply this to your life?
What are the blessings you are expecting to receive?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

A word of encouragement, instruction, and direction for 2023.

KEYWORDS

New Year's Service, Word of the Lord, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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